

JAMES A.G. REHN AND THE AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Selwyn S. Roback¹

The association of Mr. Rehn with The American Entomological Society is long and intertwined — it would be only a slight exercise in hyperbole to say that for a great deal of that period he was The American Entomological Society.

Mr. Rehn was born in 1881 and joined The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, as a Jessup student in 1900. The minutes of the meeting of December 23, 1909 record his nomination for membership in The American Entomological Society. He was elected in 1910 and obviously at once became very active in the affairs of the society. At the end of 1911 he was nominated as corresponding secretary, a post he apparently held to 1929. At the end of 1913 he was appointed a member of the publication committee and served on this committee, with some small breaks until 1965. He was chairman of this committee, from 1914? through 1923? and again in 1940? through 1964.

I might mention, parenthetically, that the reason for the question regarding some of the dates given is that the minutes of the society do not always clearly indicate the composition of the committees nor do they always indicate the chairmanship of the committee in question. Sometimes this has to be inferred from the reports in the minutes of the regular meetings by noting who gave the report for the committee. The same is true for the editorship of the *Transactions*, with the volumes before 1917 and 1925, 1926, not clearly indicating who was editor.

The inside front cover of the *Transactions* indicates that Mr. Rehn was editor from 1917-1924 though he may have taken over the editorship in 1914 when he became chairman of the publication committee. As mentioned above, the 1925, 1926 volumes do not indicate the editor and the last number of the 1927 volume gives E.T. Cresson, Jr. as editor. Mr. Cresson may have taken over the editorship at the end of 1924 when he became chairman of the publication committee.

In addition to his obvious service to the publications of the society, Mr. Rehn published extensively in the society's journals. Almost half (47%) of the papers he published under his name alone were printed in the *Transactions* or *Entomological News*, the division being 25% to *Ent.*

¹Curator, Department of Entomology, The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; Past President, The American Entomological Society.



Fig. 1. Mr. Rehn at his desk in 1959.

News and 22% to the *Transactions*. If the papers he published with Morgan Hebard and other authors are added, the figures remain about the same — 46% in the *Transactions and Ent. News* (22% *Ent. News*, 24% *Transactions*).

Mr. Rehn's greatest contribution to the society was undoubtedly in the field of finance. We owe our current strong financial underpinnings to his lengthy stewardship in this area. He became a member of the finance committee at the end of 1914 and is recorded as chairman at the end of 1916. He apparently was chairman through 1920? and 1960?-1964. He remained part of the committee and active in its work until his death. He became treasurer of the society in 1930 and served in this post for 29 years. He was a very meticulous person and his financial reports are a model of detail and accuracy. The amount of labor he performed must have been prodigious when one considers that most of his financial statements were prepared before the age of computers or even electronic adding machines.

While serving on both the finance and publication committees Mr. Rehn found time to serve the society in several other offices. In 1916 he became vice president of the society and held this office through 1922. He served as president from 1942 through 1946 and again in 1952-53. He was corresponding secretary from 1911 through 1929? and also served on the committee on corresponding (honorary) members.

The following list will summarize Mr. Rehn's services to the American Entomological Society.

President 1942-1946, 1952-1953

Vice President 1916-1922

Treasurer 1930-1959

Corresponding secretary 1911-1929?

Editor, Transactions 1917?-1924?

Finance committee 1914-1964

Publication committee 1913-1964

It was my privilege to have known Mr. Rehn from 1951 until his death in 1965 and while he was not, at all times, the easiest person to deal with, his efforts on behalf of the society were unstinting and his dedication to the welfare of The American Entomological Society was unquestionable. For more detail on Mr. Rehn's life, the reader is referred to the 1965 obituary by Maurice Phillips in *Ent. News* 76(3): 57-61.